

GEORGIA MORGAN
40 Belmont Ave.
Brattleboro, VT 05301

December 7, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing in support of the comments of Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. (File ID 1113560010350) and to oppose the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

I live in Brattleboro, VT, a town of about 12,000 people (a majority of whom live on fixed incomes and very tight budgets) who are interested and involved in the community affairs. Our CATV channel, BCTV makes it possible for residents who can't get to a selectboard meeting or a school board meeting or a town committee meeting to stay abreast of decisions being made. BCTV (and similar groups across the nation) also provide platforms for citizens to share educational messages (and political messages—I have seen broadcasts from one end of the political spectrum to the other). This is essential to the functioning of democracy. We are long past the days when a person could just stand in the town square to address fellow-citizens. CATV was instituted to assume that role. We must not do anything to diminish its reach.

This local presence enables the residents of our town to create and watch local programming and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators – something that was never the intent of the Act – and could ultimately result in such reduction in franchise fees as to defund PEG Access in our state.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Georgia Morgan